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Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Office of International Patent Cooperation Updates

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A detailed technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, likely a piston and crank mechanism, rendered in a light gray line-art style. The drawing includes various numbered callouts (e.g., 18, 80, 22, 26, 68, 40, 36, 34, 32, 52, 84, 86, 82) pointing to different components and features. The drawing is set against a dark blue background that has a wavy, torn-paper-like edge at the top and bottom.

Access to Relevant Prior Art

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Background

- USPTO is studying how to increase examination efficiency and patent quality through providing examiners with access to relevant prior art and supplemental information at the earliest point in examinations.
- Additionally, exploring whether or not automatically importing relevant prior art into the US application file at the earliest point in examination would improve prosecution efficiency and quality and reduce the burden of duty of disclosure for applicants.

Current Issues: Examiner Perspective

- Examiners
 - Awareness/availability: how do examiners know that relevant prior art is available and how do they access it
 - Efficiently obtained: how does the relevant prior art get to the examiner in a manner and time that will increase search and examination efficiency and quality
 - Value Recognition – what supplemental information is available to assist the examiner in determining the relevance of prior art

Current Issues: Applicant Perspective

- Applicants
 - Acquiring Information: how do applicants efficiently obtaining the information necessary to meet their duty of disclosure and assist the examiner in making a proper patentability decision
 - Efficiently obtained: how do applicants avoid cumbersome, costly, and time consuming efforts to monitor prosecution in related or counterpart applications or external sources so as to obtain relevant prior art
 - Compliant presentation: how do applicants efficiently submit relevant prior art to the examiner in a time and manner such that it complies with relevant regulations

Anticipated Benefits

- Increase in patent quality
- Efficiency of examination is increased
- Examiner access to relevant prior art and supplemental information in a conveniently searchable manner
- Decreased applicant expense of submitting prior art documents and information disclosure statements
- Reduced burden for applicant compliance with duty to disclose information material to patentability

Timeline

- Stage 1: Three track parallel information gathering
 - Track 1 – IT & Data Source Gathering
 - Track 2 – Application Studies Data Gathering
 - Track 3 – Data gathering from internal and external stakeholders
- Stage 2: Information Review
- Stage 2.5: Business Solution Development
- Stage 3: IT Development and Implementation

The background of the slide is a light gray technical drawing of a mechanical assembly, possibly a multi-layer printed circuit board. It features various components, layers, and reference numerals such as 18, 80, 22, 26, 68, 40, 36, 34, 32, 52, 86, and 84. The drawing is rendered in a perspective view, showing the internal structure and components of the assembly.

OIPC Updates

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OIPC Updates

- Global Dossier
 - Usage
 - Public Access Enhancements
 - Document Sharing Functionality
- Outreach Efforts
- Upcoming IP5 Meetings

Questions and Comments

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